

NEWS RELEASE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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IWRB SETS NEXT MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 13-15 IN BOISE

For Immediate Release Boise, Idaho – Feb. 7, 2002 For Media Information Contact: Dick Larsen - (208) 327-7933

The Idaho Water Resource Board will meet February 13-15 in Boise, Board officials announced today.

On February 13 the Board will meet at the capitol with the Idaho Senate Resources and Environment Committee for confirmation hearings for Governor Kempthorne's appointment of Mr. Joe Jordan, Mr. Terry Uhling, Mr. Leonard Beck, Mr. Gary Chamberlain and Mr. Claude Storer. They were appointed to four-year terms on the Board

On February 14 the Board will hold a work session starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Idaho Department of Water Resources State Office, 1301 N. Orchard Street.

On Friday, February 15 the Board will hold its regular meeting starting at 8:30, also at the IDWR State Office.

Both the February 14 and 15 meetings are open to the public.

At the Feb. 15 meeting the board will consider and act upon seven financial items. The Board also will hear reports on comprehensive state water planning efforts and on its Dworshak hydropower project.

The financial items include requests for:

- A grant of \$6,000 and a loan of \$457,740 from the Fremont-Madison Irrigation
 District for engineering design and FERC licensing for a potential hydroelectric
 power plant at Chester Dam.
- A grant of \$7,450 from the New Plymouth Water Users Association to replace a broken section of irrigation pipe in a system that provides irrigation water;

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- A grant for \$7,500 from the City of Rupert for a water supply study;
- A grant for \$7,500 from the City Grangeville for a water system improvements planning study; and
- A grant for \$7,500 from the City of Downey for a water system improvements planning study.

The Board also will take up action on refunding of an \$8.4 million revenue bond issued by the Board in 1992 on behalf of the Fall River Rural Cooperative. Proceeds from the bond issue were used by the Coop. to construct the Island Park hydroelectric power plant.

Board members also will continue evaluating the potential for refunding the \$5.2 revenue bond issued by the Board for its Dworshak hydropower plant.

In both cases, refunding the bond issues at lower interest rates have the potential for considerable financing savings costs.

The work session and regular meetings will be held in a facility meeting accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need assistance to attend, participate in or understand the meetings please contact Rita Fleck, (208) 327-7880, in advance so arrangements can be made.